

Summary of Certification Advisory Committee Minutes
R7-2-612(E) Teaching Intern Certificate

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008

Members Present

Mr. Tim Carter
Ms. Carol Christine
Mr. Frank Garcia (Telephonically)
Mr. Jac Heiss
Mr. Kevin Kapp
Mr. Chris Maza
Mr. Andrew Morrill
Ms. Kim Peaslee
Ms. Lani Simmons (Telephonically)

Members Absent

Ms. Bobbie Darroch
Ms. Jana Kooi
Ms. Anne Thiebeau

IV. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AAC R7-2-612(E), RELATING TO TEACHING INTERN CERTIFICATE

Ms. Amator gave the background on the proposed amendment to AAC R7-2-26 (E) 2 relating to the Intern Teaching Certificate. Ms. Amator shared that the emergency certificate and intern certificate were rewritten and passed by board in 2006. The emergency teaching certificate is now limited to three years, however, the intern certificate is only limited to two years. The request is being made to allow an Intern certificate for a maximum of three years.

Chair Morrill asked who is bringing this to the committee. Ms. Amator stated the recommendation is coming from staff and the Superintendent.

Vice Chair Peaslee asked if we could make it four years.

Mr. Maza asked if there is a requirement that shows progress. Ms. Amator stated interns are very closely monitored.

Ms. Christine stated she feels that we need a lot of data. Ms. Christine feels critical that the committee knows:

Has the intern reduced the number of emergency teaching certificates?

What is the completion rate of the intern certificate?

What is the satisfaction rate of the district?

Where is it working, where is it not?

Ms. Christine stated she does not feel that there is enough information.

Chair Morrill stated he is interested in data as well, such as:

Number of interns

Number completed interns

Number of interns in danger of not completing programs

Ms. Amator stated there are currently about six hundred intern certificates; two hundred are Teach for America (TFA).

Chair Morrill stated he would like data on TFA as well.

Mr. Kapp asked the advantage of the intern vs. an emergency. Mr. Morrill feels the intern is better in terms of teacher preparation and also stated there is a high level of support for Interns. Ms. Amator also pointed out the downside to emergency certificates is those teachers are counted as non-highly qualified. Mr. Kapp stated he agrees with Kim on making it four years.

Vice Chair by Peaslee moved to amend R7-2-612(E) 2 language to read “The certificate is valid for one year from the date of initial issuance and may be extended yearly for no more than three consecutive years at no cost to the applicant if the provisions in R-7-612(E)(7) are met.”

Motion seconded by Mr. Kapp.

Motion passed. 2 voted no

Members Present

Mr. Tim Carter
Ms. Bobbie Darroch
Mr. Kevin Kapp (arrived at 10:45 am)
Ms. Jana Kooi
Mr. Chris Maza
Mr. Andrew Morrill
Ms. Kim Peaslee
Ms. Lani Simmons
Ms. Anne Thiebeau

Members Absent

Ms. Carol Christine
Mr. Frank Garcia
Mr. Jac Heiss

II. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO R7-2-612(E), RELATING TO TEACHING INTERN CERTIFICATE

Chair Morrill stated that at the last meeting, the committee amended the Teaching Intern Certificate so it could be extended for three one-year periods, which appears to put Arizona at odds with the language for highly qualified status. Ms. Amator directed the committee's attention to the handout in their packet, item A-8 taken from the Federal guidelines which addresses alternative paths to certification. It states if a teacher does not complete the alternative certification program within a three-year period, the teacher is no longer considered to be highly qualified. Therefore, if the committee chooses to keep the intern certificate language at four years (one year + 3 one-year extensions), the teacher would have to be reported as non-highly qualified for the fourth year. The recommendation then, Chair Morrill said, is to scale back and remove one year's extension. It would require an amendment and a motion to approve. Vice-Chair Peaslee made a motion to amend the approved motion from last month to read "the certificate is valid for one year from the date of initial issuance and may be extended yearly for no more than two consecutive years at no cost to the applicant." Motion seconded by Mr. Maza.

Mr. Carter asked for an explanation of the rationale behind the motion. Chair Morrill referred to the document in the packet entitled "Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Non-Regulatory Guidance" from the US DOE. In item A-8, first paragraph, number (3) states "assumes functions as a teacher for a period not to exceed three years. Paragraph two states if the teacher does not complete the alternative certification program within the three-year period, the teacher is no longer considered to be highly qualified. The amendment the committee made would create a life span of up to four years on an intern certificate, so the last year would put him/her out of compliance with highly qualified status. The motion on the floor is to scale back one year so the intern certificate would be for one year, with two one-year extensions, which would then align with the highly qualified requirements.

Mr. Carter stated he had a concern that in the original discussion by the committee, there was considerable dialogue on that length of time and the committee concluded that the time frame we originally suggested was the appropriate time frame.

Vice-Chair Peaslee said the discussion then will be about the effects on the districts that have staff who are highly qualified and then in the fourth year are not. Will that be tolerable? It increases the recordkeeping at the school level and the district level. While teachers would like the option to extend and go four years to meet the requirements, is it worth it?

Ms. Amator said the problem with having it at four years, whether or not an intern takes the full four years, is when we are monitored, we have a policy that puts us out of compliance. We will have a finding based on that policy alone.

Mr. Yanez asked Ms. Amator to elaborate on what can happen if we have a series of findings that show that we are out of compliance. Ms. Amator stated we have to address the finding and fix the finding or become non-compliant. Chair Morrill said non-compliance would lead to funding issues down the road. Ms. Amator confirmed that was true.

Ms. Kooi felt it is never appropriate to put an institution or ourselves in a position of non-compliance because there are opposing scenarios going on. Ms. Darroch stated that in her district, teachers not in compliance would be let go. Mr. Carter wondered why we did not have this information for our last discussion. Ms. Amator said it was because staff's original proposal was for three years, and the Guidance was brought to her attention by the Director of Title IIA after the Certification Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Simmons stated the motion on the floor has a positive impact for districts because the intern certificate is not more restrictive than the emergency certificate, and she supports the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.